Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards
Sixth session

Consolidating the national system of quality infrastructure: Priority needs

Dipl.ing. Zoran BAKIĆ, Head of Unit

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Ministry of Economy
Institutions

As a coordinator for technical regulations and the authority responsible for creating the strategy and development policies for standardization, accreditation and metrology, set a stable institutional framework in these areas. The Sectors work is aimed at improving the legal and institutional framework for standardization, accreditation, metrology, prescribing technical requirements and conformity assessment with technical requirements.
During 2010 and 2011 the transformation of the Institute for Standardization of Serbia (ISS) has been accomplished and adoption of European standards have been accelerated. At a joint session of the General Assembly of the European standardization organizations CEN and CENELEC in Brussels, on 23 November 2016, unanimously declared the acceptance of the Institute for Standardization of Serbia as a full member of these organizations.
Ministry of Economy

Institutions

ISS maintains the status of the full member in the International organizations for standardization (ISO and IEC), as well as the full membership status in the European organizations for standardization (CEN and CENELEC), and actively participates in the development and implementation of their policies and strategies. According to the last quarterly report compiled by the CEN-CENELEC Management Center (MRMC) from Brussels, ISS adopted and published 99.43 % CEN standards, 97.5 % CENELEC standards and 86.2 % ETSI standards as Serbian standards.
The accreditation system is fully compliant with the principles of European accreditation. During 2012, the Accreditation Body of Serbia (ATS) signed the EA / MLA (and in 2014 the EA MLA covered all areas), which is one of the preconditions key for accepting certificates issued by accredited CABs in Serbia, when exporting our products to the EU market.

The most important activities of ATS in the previous period (since October 2018) were focused on implementing the new version of ISO/IEC 17011:2017, Conformity assessment – Requirements for accreditation bodies accrediting CABs.
In the field of **metrology**, last 14 years, an extensive reconstruction of the system has been carried out, thus preventing any possible conflict of interest. Clear roles of all actors in the metrology system have been established, and within the Directorate for Measures and Precious Metals, a reorganization has been carried out in accordance with the latest Law on Metrology.
Modern system in the field of quality infrastructure system in Serbia is comprised of technical regulations, standardization, accreditation, metrology and market surveillance.

The following laws in Serbia represent pillars of the QI:

- Law on technical requirements for products and Conformity Assessment, **NEW! 2021**
- Law on Accreditation, **NEW! 2021**
- Law on Standardization,
- Law on Metrology and **NEW! 2021**
- Law on Market Surveillance.
Ministry of Economy has aligned all national legislation within its competence with the relevant New and Old Approach EU directives (machinery, lifts, LVD, EMC, ATEX, PPE, textile, footwear, crystal glass, MID, NAWI, PPP, ADD).

Other line ministries have also been working very actively on the harmonization in selected areas, and the level of alignment is described in detail in the Strategy and Action Plan for Harmonized Area.
TECHNICAL REGULATIONS - NONHARMONIZED AREA

After the latest comments of the European Commission on third version of the Draft Action Plan for Non-harmonized area (benchmark No. 1 in CH1 negotiations), this document has been revised and complied with EC comments.

We have taken into account the EC statements in the heading „Implementation of the AP“ that new Regulation (EU) 2019/515 should be included, so the text is revised in that regard and new provisions will be implemented relating to establishment of Product Contact Point and strengthening the capacity of the market surveillance authorities.
CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

Certificates of conformity for Electrical and electronic equipment (EEE):

Obligation of providing Confirmation of Conformity before placing products covered by LVD, EMC or Machinery Rulebook (only hand held tools with electric motors of nominal alternating voltage up 250 V) on the market of RS, shall remain in force (for domestic and foreign manufacturers) until the end of 2020.
Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade in Serbia:

Needs Assessment

Chapter Six
Conclusion and recommendations
Further developing the national system of quality infrastructure

Strengthening standard-setting

1. Further strengthen the national Enquiry Point within the Ministry of Economy, so that it can become fully operational – this includes providing free-of-charge online information on applicable regulatory requirements and administrative procedures associated with product certification and conformity assessment in general,...

Comments:
- More then 7-8 years we have similar institution – TBT enquiry point...
- Product Contact Point will be established by the provisions of new Law on technical requirements for products...
2. Accord priority to strengthening capacities for translating harmonized standards into Serbian. As this is a demanding task, start work on the standards that are relevant to strategic sectors.

Comments:
- That's exactly what we've been doing for years.
3. Publish additional online training materials on standards implementation. Such training materials, which must be in Serbian, should not only cover best practices but also be context specific and feature case studies from Serbia on issues related to the selection and implementation of standards.

Comments:
- Ministry of economy has published (in 2011) all relevant Guidelines for implementation of regulations within its competence...
- Since the publication of the first regulations arising from European Directives, the Ministry of Economy has held dozens of seminars and trainings, continuously.
4. Accord priority to establishing bilateral mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) with trade partners to ensure acceptance of accredited test and inspection reports and certificates of compliance. Experiences suggest that successful MRAs provide for:
- A progressive list of products to which the MRA would apply. To simplify matters, begin with a limited list designated at the HS-6 digit level...

**Comments:**
- except for Bosnia and Herzegovina, there are no more interested countries in the region (MRA),
- HS-6 digit level (the customs code) provides very little information that could be used to determine the regulations that cover a particular product... almost impossible.
Instead of a conclusion

One of the main issue of the implementation of the new technical legislation is the LACK OF KNOWLEDGE AMONG PRODUCERS AND IMPORTERS in Serbia...
Thank you for your attention